

NEWS OF THE DAY.

"To show the very age and body of the times."

The Charleston Mercury denies that either the Governor "or any other power or authority of law in South Carolina" has ever seized or made use of the funds in the Sub-treasury at that city. It states further that the amount in the Sub-treasury when South Carolina seceded was one hundred and fifty thousand dollars, which amount has been reduced in the same manner by payments, according to the law of the United States, to about fifty thousand dollars. This sum is still in the Sub-treasury to the credit of the United States Treasury and the disbursing agents.

At Reading, Pa., January 17, a large number of workmen assembled at the court-house, for the purpose of holding a Union meeting. Hundreds had gathered around the court-house, and the city commissioners refused to open the building. There was some excitement, and threats were made to break open the doors, but the crowd finally adjourned, cheering the Union, the workmen of Kentucky, and the workmen of Berks.

Thirty thousand bales of cotton passed through Worcester, (Mass.) last week, on its way to Lowell and Lawrence, most of which came from Memphis by railroad. The Grand Trunk Company are making extensive arrangements for the transportation of cotton direct from the Mississippi to the East. The Michigan Central road is doing an immense business in connection with the Illinois Central in the transportation of products from Kentucky, Tennessee and Missouri.

A party of negroes succeeded in capturing, on Tuesday morning, the negro man reported to be the principal of the gang who brutal murder on an old gentleman at Weldon, North Carolina, the particulars of which have already been given. He was delivered over by his captors to some of the citizens of the neighborhood.

At Pittsburgh, January 17, there was a call for a grand mass convention, by members of all political parties, to recommend the passage of the Crittenden compromise, or any other honorable and reasonable compromise which will settle the difference between the North and South. The call is signed by many of the most prominent business men of that city.

The Secretary of State has informed Lord Lyons and other foreign ministers that no clearance of vessels issued by any other authority than the United States officials will be recognized, and that any payments of duties on imports, except to such officials, will be regarded as mispayments, for which the parties paying will be held responsible to our government.

At Boston, Jan. 17, there was an exciting time in the State Senate, on the proposition to immediately raise a volunteer military force, with reference to the present crisis. Patriotic speeches were made by Senators and demonstrations of applause. The House is hurrying up its action in connection with the personal liberty bill.

The game law of Maryland prohibits the killing of partridges, or quail, between the 15th of January and 1st of October, under a penalty of \$5 for each bird: one-half of the fine to go to the informer. Woodcock between 1st February and 10th June. There was a fine of \$100 for each bird killed between 1st of February and 10th of August.

It is stated that the latest "fashion" announced from Europe is that of dressing very plainly when going to church. Some of the ladies of the first circle go up to worship in plain calico. It is thus sought to encourage the attendance of the poor who have hitherto withheld their presence for lack of "Sunday clothes."

An elderly lady named Sarah Jarboe, who lived alone, near the residence of Mr. Benedict Russell, Newton Manor, St. Mary's county, Md., was so severely burnt on Saturday night last, that she died the succeeding day. No one was with her at the time of the accident.

A proposition has been introduced into the Select Council of Philadelphia, looking to the reformation of the Fire Department of that city, by a re-arrangement of the locations of steam and hand engines, and by providing for the extinguishing of fires by contract.

Mrs. Jane Dale Fawcett, only sister of Hon. Robert Dale Owen, died at New Harmony, N. Y., last week. She was the widow of a United States officer. This celebrated family is now reduced to two brothers, Robert Dale and Richard.

A man named Hastings, steward of the schooner A. J. De Rosset, has been arrested at Wilmington, N. C., charged with cutting with a knife four or five men in an affray. One of them, named Nevill Barnes, is from Alexandria, Va., and is badly cut.

Judge Jones, of the United States District Court at Mobile, on Friday afternoon announced from the windows of the court room that the United States Court for the Southern District of Alabama was "adjourned forever."

At New York, Jan. 18, the steamer Marion arrived from Charleston, with several laborers from Fort Sumter as passengers. They report the troops in the fortress as in good spirits, with plenty of provisions, excepting market truck.

In the case of Logan, on trial at Annapolis, for the murder of A. B. Kyle, a man named Clarke, testified positively to the fact that Kyle fired the shot which caused the death of that brave and lamented young gentleman.

A meeting of prominent merchants was held at New York, last week, when a memorial to Congress was adopted recommending the adoption of the compromise plan proposed by the Border States' Representatives.

Wm. S. Stockton, the youngest son of the Rev. Thos. H. Stockton, chaplain of the House of Representatives, died in Philadelphia on the 14th instant, in the 17th year of his age.

Death of Lola Montez. Lola Montez died a few days since in New York city and was buried on Thursday last. She appeared in Paris as a dancer and soon after went upon the stage as an actress. In 1847 she went to Munich, where her relations with the King of Bavaria gave her notoriety. She was driven from Bavaria in a popular outbreak, since which time she has lived mostly in this country. Some months since an attack of paralysis brought her to her death bed. Rev. Dr. Hawks of New York, by request and officiated at her funeral. She died, it is believed a sincere penitent.

Munitions of War for South Carolina. PETERSBURG, Jan. 19.—Two thousands pounds of shot and shells and 1,000 kegs of powder passed through this city by special train, from the Tredegar works in Richmond, en route for Charleston, per order of Gov. Pickens.

The Louisiana Convention. NEW ORLEANS, Jan. 19.—The result of a recent election for delegates to a State Convention was two to one in favor of secession.

VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE.

In the Senate, on Friday, a communication was received from the House of Delegates announcing the passage by that body of certain joint resolutions, inviting the other States to send Commissioners to meet Commissioners on the part of Virginia, and providing for the appointment of the same.

M. Coghlin proposed an amendment to be inserted between the 4th and 5th resolutions, as follows:

"That in the opinion of the General Assembly of Virginia, the propositions embraced in the resolutions presented to the Senate of the United States by the Hon. John J. Crittenden, so modified as that the first article proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of the United States shall apply to all the territory of the United States now held or hereafter acquired south of latitude 36 deg. 30 min., and shall provide that slavery of the African race shall be protected, if necessary, as property therein, by all the departments of the Federal and Territorial Governments, during the continuance of the Territorial Government; and the fourth article shall secure to the owners of slaves the right of transit with their slaves between and through the non-slaveholding States and Territories, constitute the basis of such an adjustment of the unhappy controversy which now divides the States of this Confederacy as would be accepted by the people of this Commonwealth."

The amendment was advocated by Messrs. Isbell, Coghlin, August and others, and opposed by Messrs. Johnson, Thomas, of Fairfax, and others. The object of the opponents of the amendment being not to clog the question of the appointment of Commissioners, and the invitation to other States, with any instructions; while those who advocated the measure were in favor of insuring their agents in regard to the basis of adjustment.

During the progress of the discussion, Mr. Christian proposed a substitute to the amendment of Mr. Coghlin, as follows:

Resolved, That in the opinion of the General Assembly, the propositions embraced in the resolutions presented in the Senate of the United States by the Hon. John J. Crittenden, so modified that in all territory south of the line of 36 deg. 30, or hereafter to be acquired, slavery of the African race is hereby recognized as existing, and shall not be interfered with by Congress, but shall be protected as property by all the departments of the Territorial Government, constitute the basis of such an adjustment of the unhappy controversy which now divides the States of this Confederacy as would be accepted by the people of this Commonwealth."

Mr. Coghlin then moved the adoption of the amendments of various pending propositions.

Without taking action, the Senate adjourned.

In the House of Delegates, a bill was reported for the temporary relief of the Banks of the Commonwealth; (on motion of Mr. Seddon, read a first and second time, and ordered to be printed.)

The Committee on Banks reported the following resolution: Resolved, It is the unanimous opinion of this Committee that it is inexpedient, under present circumstances, to incorporate any new Bank or Branches; resolutions of inquiry were offered regarding the law requiring the Banks to publish their quarterly statements in the city papers, and leaving so much of the law in force as requires them to be published in the towns and cities in which said Banks are located, and refunding a certain sum of money to S. J. Granstaff, late sheriff of Shenandoah.

Mr. Wood, of Albemarle, offered the resolution: Resolved, That the resolution of Mr. Newton, rejected yesterday, declaring the position Virginia would occupy in the contingency of a last alternative in a war between different sections of the Confederacy. The Speaker ruled the motion out of order.

On motion of Mr. Kemper, the bill to amend an Ordinance department was taken up. Mr. Kemper moved to amend the bill by adding the following as an independent section: The duties heretofore assigned to the Commissioners of the Armory shall be performed by the officers whose appointment is authorized by this act.

The amendment was adopted. Mr. Collier moved to amend the bill by striking out the clause "by and with the advice and consent of the Senate." The amendment was lost.

Mr. McKenize moved to further amend the bill by adding the following: Sec. 4th.—The Governor of this Commonwealth shall vacate the offices created by this act, when, in his opinion, the condition of the country will justify it.

The amendment was lost, and the bill, as amended by Mr. Kemper, passed unanimously. The House passed the bill to create an Ordinance Department, and also a bill appropriating one million of dollars for the defense of the State was taken up, debated by Messrs. Haymond, Kemper, McKenize and others, and passed, yeas 120, nays 0.

The bill authorizes and requires the Colonel of Ordnance to purchase, under the direction of the Governor, such arms, &c., including machinery, &c., for altering and improving cannon and small arms, and for manufacturing equipments and munitions, as may be required for the defense of the State, and appropriate salaries for the same. The bill authorizes the Governor to employ an engineer to construct such coast, harbor and river defenses as are immediately needed. The Governor is also authorized to acquire for such purpose by purchase or condemnation, all sites, &c., necessary for the defensive works aforesaid. \$200,000 is appropriated for the last mentioned purpose.

On motion of Mr. Haymond, the House proceeded to consider the bill "authorizing the issue of Treasury notes for the purpose of raising means for the defense of the State," and then adjourned.

Some time last week, the particular day we did not learn, Mrs. Thomas, an aged and feeble lady, mother of R. S. Thomas, esq., of this county, met with an accident by which her clothing took fire, and before it could be extinguished, burnt her so severely, that she died a few days from its effects.

Free LIBERTY.—We have accounts from Montgomery of the 3d of December. The Legislature was about to convene. Among the matters of importance under consideration were the negotiation of a treaty with Hayti; the reaptured African question, and the relations of the Government with the American Colonization Society; the alteration of the tariff, and confining of all vessels engaged in foreign trade to ports of origin. There is a demand for several more sugar mills on the St. Paul's river, on account of the increased amount of cane planted. The crop fields fair to be double that of any previous year.

We are in receipt of a letter from Slate Mills, Lappahannock county, complaining of irregularity in the receipt of the Gazette at that office. The letter says that the paper is received regularly by Paul Mills, the mail for which passes by Slate Mills. We would call the attention of the Post Masters and Mail Agents to this complaint, and trust that the remedy will at once be applied.

QUAR CASES Superior SHIP WINE 2 2 do. do. do. Masters do. Just received and for sale by 1009 HUMPHREYS & TALLEFERRO.

CHEESE! CHEESE! CHEESE!—Just received a lot of prime Eastern Cheese; also another lot of New Orleans sugars. 1009 HUMPHREYS & TALLEFERRO.

SACKS G. A. SALT, part of cargo of ship "Scotsman," direct from Liverpool, in store and for sale by 1500 FOWLE & CO.

OUR RICHMOND LETTERS.

RICHMOND, Jan. 18.—Yesterday was an exciting day in the House of Delegates. The House was in continued session from twelve till near 5 P. M. The papers will show the hard struggle that took place, by these who do not appear to be willing to make all reasonable efforts to settle the unpleasant difficulties between the two sections, in the Union, but not out of it. Who can estimate the value of this glorious Union, and who can tell what the result would be, if we pulled down this Temple of Liberty, and seceded from our positions as one of the great Republics, the only "great" Republic in the world, and come to a confederation of States, based it may be upon one idea. For one, I intend, as long as we can honorably hold on to the "Flag of the Union"—the stars and stripes. I am proud of the dignified, conservative course that Virginia has so far pursued. When she takes her position, be it what it may, she will not move from it. The title name of "Subsidiaries" has no terrors, except to timid people. "Subsidiaries" to what? The "Union," "the Constitution" and the "Laws." Yes, submission to these is proper, and when these don't suit, then comes revolution.

An effort was made yesterday, as you will notice, to amend the report, and to incorporate into it a resolution, which, in the opinion of the majority, was only intended to embarrass the matter. It was consequently rejected, although it offered as a separate proposition, it would have been adopted by a large majority, and would be at any time. The pressure upon the Legislature has been very great to "precipitate" the State out of the Union, and it would appear from the various arrivals here of those anxious for a separation, that they are determined it shall be done "at all hazards." What a "God send" it would appear to be to some, if something would occur to bring about a collision of some sort.

There is a very singular fact connected with our Governors. The Democrats elect their Governors against the wishes of the Whigs and Union men. And then they turn round and desert them. I mean what I would call the unsound portion of them. Governor Wise did not cut. Now, Gov. Leche, to some extent, is under the law. He won't seize a Fort or order out troops, or will not write messages, they approve of. I can see it in the face of the State, that we have John Leche as our Governor. He will do nothing rashly, and is very conservative. He is for the Union, and for doing all he can to maintain it honorably. And if he hear comes when we must separate, he is for going out like a man, whenever his State goes.

The House, today, passed a bill creating an Ordinance Board, a bill appropriating \$1,000,000 for the defense of the State, and a bill authorizing the issue of \$1,000,000 Treasury notes to pay for the same, and adjourned. The Senate has been held locked all day, with some amendments proposed to the bill. They sit unobtrusively on their seats, and say nothing, but at the same time express great devotion to the Union. As they speak less than words, it is probable that the following gentlemen will be named to go to Washington on the fourth of February, to try and propose some settlement, viz: John Tyler, Judge Brockenbrough, W. C. Rives, G. W. Summers, and James A. Seddon.

REMARKS.—The Committee on Banks this morning reported a bill legalizing the suspension of specie payments, and repealing the penalties against the Banks for failing to pay specie for their notes, giving them until 1st March, 1862, to resume specie payments.

The House passed the bill to create an Ordinance Department, and also a bill appropriating one million of dollars for the defense of the Commonwealth, and a bill to authorize the issue of Treasury notes for the purpose of raising means for the defense of the State; and then adjourned.

SAD ACCIDENTS.—We regret to learn that a little daughter of Mr. Jesse Tatum, a citizen of this county, was drowned in the Robert Lee river, on Saturday last. She was crossing a foot bridge, in company with her aunt and an Irish boy, when she fell from the bridge into the water. One of the ladies, being in the water, which was some two or three feet deep, and attempted to rescue her; but owing to the swiftness of the current, her efforts were vain. A negro man was near the spot when the accident occurred, but owing to flight, or some other cause, he could not be induced to render any assistance. Some distance down the stream before it was recovered from the water.

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Letter from Robt. E. Scott, esq., of Fauquier Co.

[The following letter, addressed by Mr. Scott to a Member of the House Committee of Thirty-Three, has been handed to us, with a request that we publish the same.]

OAKWOOD, Dec. 20, 1860. MY DEAR SIR:—Your letter of the 15th inst. was duly received, but business engagements have prevented me, until the present time, from acknowledging it.

The aspect of our Federal affairs is, indeed, most threatening. We seem to be plunging ever the very abyss of dissolution, into which many influences are conspiring to precipitate us and it remains to be seen whether there is any escape from the peril. The incessant warfare of the opposing sections upon the question of slavery has produced a state of antagonism among the people, and, indeed, of hatred and ill-will, that surrounds us at this moment with complications greatly more serious, in my opinion, than any that belong intrinsically to the subject itself. Relieved of the embarrassments which passion and prejudice create, any honest man could settle our prejudicial and the true national and political influences over exerting a fearful control over human actions, and when they take a political view, they seem to act with even more fatal energy.

But, although the peril is great, the case is not desperate; mere palliatives, however, will not afford relief; the disease has struck its roots deep into the system, and radical remedies are necessary for a cure. Happily, these involve nothing more than what a common interest and common justice suggest. But in the pursuit of the remedies, we must distinguish between the parties, and the true national and political influences over exerting a fearful control over human actions, and when they take a political view, they seem to act with even more fatal energy.

The question of slavery has already been referred to as the cause of the peril, and, indeed, the "cause of the peril" found in the part of all our dissections, and prominent in the future with our overwork and pain. If we can remove this cause, and escape its fatal fate, nothing will remain to occasion anxiety hereafter, nothing to obstruct that onward march to national grandeur, in which our country has already made such wonderful progress. Why may we not remove this cause, and escape its harm? The people of thirty-three States are associated together under a common government; eighteen of these States rest upon the basis of the "Union," and the other ten, while the other fifteen rest upon institution and laws that recognize that relation. By the consent of each, certain powers deemed necessary for the general welfare were conceded to all, with the intent that they should be exercised by the common government for the common good. Is there anything in the nature of free and slave institutions that makes it impossible for a common government to respect the rights and promote the prosperity of each? If there be, our experiment is a failure, and it is the part of wisdom to dissolve the Union. If national antagonisms really exist, so that the interests of one section must be subordinate to the interests of the other, nothing short of actual force can hold the two together when the operation of the government dissolves that fact.

In all federal concerns, the people of each State exercise the powers conferred in the part of the people of the other States. The people of New York, for example, when they vote for President and Vice President, and send Senators and Representatives to Congress, exercise powers conferred upon them by the people of the other States. If their own more volition they could do neither, and can it be expected that the people of Virginia will tamely submit to have the powers thus emanating from them used to their prejudice, that is to say, to have their own powers employed for their own destruction? That is impossible; and if the people of New York, cannot, or will not, use these powers, in the spirit and intent of the trust, for the benefit of the people of Virginia, the two cannot live together in peace under the same government, and the same is true of the people of all the States.

There is a certain interest that springs from the institutions of the free States; these are other interests that spring from the institutions of the slaveholding States; and they are entitled alike to the protection and the fostering care of the government. If they are diverse, a common government must respect the diversity; if they are conflicting, the conflict must be repressed; or if the conflict be irrepressible, the government must be abandoned. It seems to me that these conclusions are so plainly right, and so clear so necessarily from the nature of our association, that they must command assent to every honest man, and it follows that if the present Republican party is based upon a supposed "irrepressible conflict" between freedom and slavery, as they exist in the States, it is based upon a principle necessarily fatal to the Union. There has always been a conflict of sentiment between the two sections, but the idea of its irrepressibility is of modern origin. The conflict arose in the first Congress, but was repressed by the articles of confederation.

It appeared in the General Convention at St. Louis, and was repressed by the Constitution; and in after time, under the operation of that instrument, notwithstanding the conflict, Kentucky, Tennessee, Georgia, Louisiana, Alabama, Mississippi, Missouri, Florida, Arkansas, and Texas, were added to the sisterhood of States, and an opportunity given to the institution of slavery. But, during this time, the free States increased in even more rapid proportion, and advanced in greater degree to importance and strength. To say now that the conflict is irrepressible is to falsify the past, and to attribute to the statesmen of the revolution the intention of a system, intended to be perpetual, upon a conflict of interests incompatible with its continuance.

In the first Congress, the conflict arose upon the question of taxation, and in the Federal Convention upon a contest for power. Each section was naturally desirous of securing for itself in the one case exemption from burden, and in the other preponderance of power in the new government; but it never entered into the mind of any that there existed a conflict of interests between the sections to necessitate or incite to aggression upon either. Such an idea must have been fatal to the undertaking, since, under a condition in which all were equals, it is not to be supposed that either would voluntarily have incurred the sacrifice necessary to its consummation. It must be conceded, therefore, that the constitution was ordained in the belief, as to all, that the common government was compatible with the general welfare, and that no sectional interest was liable to suffer injustice or wrong from the exercise of the powers conferred upon it. Especially does this seem to be true of the interests of slavery, for in the very act of stamping the foreign slave trade with prohibition, the Constitution, with a singular exception, admitted the welfare of every part to such states as might choose to exercise it.

There was at that time no supposed irrepressible conflict between slavery and freedom, but whatever sectional diversity existed had its origin simply in the natural desire of holding power, stimulated perhaps by the then general uncertainty of the future, but in no degree inspired by a desire of sectional aggression on the one part, or fear of it on the other.

Now these causes of diversity have disappeared, revenue is derived from duty on importations, and there is no longer any competition between the sections for supremacy; the free states outnumber the slave states, and exceed them in population, and the proportion will shortly increase. In what is there now to be found any new cause of diversity? Certainly not in any competition between the products of the two kinds of labor, because these are for the most part wholly dissimilar; and in fact very much of the wealth and prosperity of the people of the free states arises from the use of slave products, and the unrestricted commerce with the people of the slave states which the Constitution secures. So intimately are the people of both sections connected in this respect that it would be difficult to determine where the calamity would fall most heavily if the system upon which these relations repose, and as to the social, moral, and religious considerations that are supposed to arise from slavery, these belong peculiarly to those who tolerate that form of servitude.

Why should we quarrel over the question of slavery in the territories? Physical causes, more potent than human laws, must at last give its solution; where the population is favorable, and the climate and soil propitious, there slavery will be instituted, and where these are otherwise, thence it will be repelled. The territories are the common property of all the people; and if we concede that, through their federal agents, they have the right to legislate for their necessities, and the power to shape their institutions at pleasure, why should the institutions peculiar to one section be favored by regulation, to the prejudice of those that belong to the other section? Or if the institutions of one section be protected in the territories by laws necessary for their security, why should those of the other be denied the like favor? Every act of Federal Legislation, whether proceeding directly from Congress or indirectly through the authorities of a territory, emanates from the entire people; and the proposition implied in the policy is, in all matters, to respect the rights of the people, or to respect the power of all for the exclusive good of a part, or, in other words, to abuse it to the prejudice of some by whom it was jointly contributed. What just right has the Federal authority, which respects to such large extent up in the institutions of slavery, and derives so much of its power from that source, to put the "caput lupinum" upon that form of industry, and proclaim against it a war of extermination as some propose, or injuriously to hedge it within limits beyond which it is not to extend? Is it to treat the states as equal, or to respect the equal rights of all the people? On the contrary, it is not to assume co-sovereignty over the domestic affairs of the states and, covered up by whatever subtlety of argument, can we fail to discover that it is in fact to wage war upon the very institution that this authority was designed to promote.

It is the tendency of the Federal system, and the obvious policy is persisted in, does it not demonstrate that slaveholding states and free states cannot associate together under the present form of government, and that the government must be altered or the association abandoned? These views, as to relations of the Federal authority and the states and the duty of the former to the institution of slavery, are not now for the first time conceived; prominence was given to some of them in the address part forth by the late Opposition Convention at Richmond, and I have for a long time stood ready, in a proper manner, to make them the basis of demands on the part of the people of the slave holding states, and to accept their refusal by the people of the other states, which is the basis of the "fugitive" law, which to act. But patriotic politicians among us, seized on the questions and prosecuted them for the mischievous ends of party advantage, and so distracted the public mind as to paralyze every effort for temperate and concerted action, until now, under the sting of party discomfiture, and as I fear, to some extent, for evil party and personal motives, we are in danger of a precipitation that must destroy the conservative people of the other states that timely explanation on our part of the causes of grievance, and that just consideration of their part which the impending crisis demands.

For myself I would not have made the mere election of Messrs. Lincoln and Hamlin the cause of resistance. Much as I condemn the sectional action from which it proceeded, and greatly as I deplore the manifestations to which it gave rise, I would have waited still longer the march of events, standing ever ready to oppose a stern resistance to the very first act that compromised Southern honor, and to carry the resistance to the last extremity.

Even now, I form the party united, I could not assume that the circulating press would violate sacred constitutional trusts and move forward in open disregard to right and justice. I never doubted that the sectional issue carried in itself the remedy for its own mischief, that it would specially strand any party that sought to repose upon it, and that the Republican party would be compelled to abandon that issue or fall to pieces by reason of its inherent vice. But other counsels prevailed, and we find ourselves in the present position of events, which we are forced to deal with, and it is all the more expedient and just that the immediate action by which these events have been precipitated; we must deal with them as they exist. But it must not be disguised that this action derives much excuse from that party organization which elected chief magistrates for the country in the persons of those for whom, under the circumstances, but few of the citizens of fifteen states deeded they could vote consistently with a proper regard for the rights and honor of the section in which they reside. I know it is asserted that many elements, besides that of slavery, entered into the vote of the secession, the expediency and justice of the immediate action by which these events have been precipitated; we must deal with them as they exist. But it must not be disguised that this action derives much excuse from that party organization which elected chief magistrates for the country in the persons of those for whom, under the circumstances, but few of the citizens of fifteen states deeded they could vote consistently with a proper regard for the rights and honor of the section in which they reside. 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